

In the Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A process for making a stable colloid for gene transfer, said stable colloid comprising complexes which have a neutral or net anionic surface potential and comprise sequestered DNA ~~neutral or anionic complexes containing sequestered DNA~~, said process comprising modifying a precursor colloid comprising a complex which has a cationic surface potential and comprises DNA and cationic lipids or polymers by reacting ~~said cationic lipids or polymers with~~ a reagent with the cationic lipids or polymers present in said complex to reduce, remove or reverse said cationic surface potential, said reagent selected from the group consisting of citraconic anhydride and N-hydroxysuccinimide acetate.

Claims 2 to 6 (Cancelled)

7. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 1, wherein said cationic lipid or polymer is selected from the group consisting of linear polyamines, branched polyamines and polyamines comprising guanidinium groups.

Claims 8 to 10 (Cancelled)

11. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 1, wherein said complex further comprises a targeting ligand covalently attached to a cationic lipid or polymer.

Claims 12 and 13 (Cancelled)

14. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 1, wherein said reagent is only reacted with cationic head groups of cationic lipids or polymers on the surface of said complex.
15. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 1, wherein said reagent is reacted with cationic head groups of cationic lipids or polymers on the surface of and in the interior of said complex.

Claims 16 and 17 (Cancelled)

18. (Currently Amended) A stable colloid prepared by the process of Claim 1 ~~comprising an aqueous phase having suspended therein a DNA complex which has a neutral or net anionic surface potential, said complex comprising: (A) DNA; and (B) cationic lipids or polymers, one or more of which have been reacted with a reagent selected from the group consisting of citraconic anhydride and N-hydroxysuccinimide acetate.~~
19. (Currently Amended) A method for gene therapy by delivering in vivo an exogenous therapeutic DNA sequence to a patient in need thereof comprising administering to said patient an effective amount of the stable colloid of claim 18.
20. (Previously Presented) The colloid of Claim 18, wherein said cationic lipid or polymer is selected from the group consisting of linear polyamines, branched polyamines and polyamines comprising guanidinium groups.
21. (Previously Presented) The colloid of Claim 18, wherein said complex further

comprises a targeting ligand covalently attached to a cationic lipid or polymer.

22. (Previously Presented) The colloid of Claim 18, wherein said reagent is only reacted with cationic head groups of cationic lipids or polymers on the surface of said complex.
23. (Previously Presented) The colloid of Claim 18, wherein said reagent is reacted with cationic head groups of cationic lipids or polymers on the surface of and in the interior of said complex.
24. (Currently Amended) The method ~~process~~ of Claim 19, wherein said cationic lipid or polymer is selected from the group consisting of linear polyamines, branched polyamines and polyamines comprising guanidinium groups.
25. (Currently Amended) The method ~~process~~ of Claim 19, wherein said complex further comprises a targeting ligand covalently attached to a cationic lipid or polymer.
26. (Currently Amended) The method ~~process~~ of Claim 19, wherein said reagent is only reacted with cationic head groups of cationic lipids or polymers on the surface of said complex.
27. (Currently Amended) The method ~~process~~ of Claim 19, wherein said reagent is reacted with cationic head groups of cationic lipids or polymers on the surface of and in the interior of said complex.
28. (Previously Presented) The colloid of Claim 18, wherein said cationic lipid contains hydrophobic moieties which are based on one or more acyl chains of various lengths.

29. (Previously Presented) The colloid of Claim 18, wherein said cationic lipid contains a hydrophobic moiety which is a myristyl chain or a palmityl chain.
30. (Previously Presented) The colloid of Claim 18, wherein said complex comprises further a targeting ligand which is selected from the group consisting of folate and tumor homing peptides.
31. (Currently Amended) The method ~~process~~ of Claim 19, wherein said cationic lipid contains hydrophobic moieties which are based on one or more acyl chains of various lengths.
32. (Currently Amended) The method ~~process~~ of Claim 19, wherein said complex comprises further a targeting ligand which is selected from the group consisting of folate and tumor homing peptides.